

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A real-time virus tracking and display system for use with a distributed computer network, the system comprising:

a plurality of client users having potentially infected client computers;

at least one anti-virus scanning server accessible via the distributed computer network, whereby the client users contact the server to facilitate virus scanning of the client computers;

a scan log ~~of information~~ which is sent back from each client user detailing certain results of the virus scanning on each client computer;

a virus-tracking server for receiving the scan log information from said client computers in real-time;

a database server associated with the virus-tracking server for processing the scan log information into virus-tracking information; and

at least one virus tracking display mode accessible by a tracking user from the virus tracking server, the display mode providing real-time updates of said virus tracking information pertaining to the scan logs.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 1, wherein the tracking user can configure the display modes to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 2, wherein the display modes includes a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus-tracking display mode on the pages.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 1, wherein the scan log information contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 4, wherein the scan log information includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 1, wherein a servlet program on the virus-tracking server is used to receive the scan log information from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 1, wherein a polling program is used to regularly retrieve the virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The system of Claim 7, wherein a common gateway interface (CGI) program is used to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The system of Claim 1, wherein a Java applet running on a tracking user browser is used to display a real-time virus trace map.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The system of Claim 1, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of Claim 1, wherein the distributed computer network of includes the Internet, wherein said scan log from each scanned client computer is sent back over the Internet to be received by said virus tracking server, and wherein said virus tracking display mode is accessible over the Internet by said tracking user.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method to provide real-time virus tracking and display for use with a distributed computer network, the method comprising:

providing an anti-virus scanning program on at least one anti-virus scanning server accessible via the distributed computer network;

invoking the anti-virus scanning program from a plurality of client users having potentially infected client computers;

generating a scan log from each scanned client computer and sending the scan log back from each client user, the scan log detailing certain results of the scanning program on each client computer;

receiving the scan log information from said client computers in real-time via a virus tracking server associated with the distributed computer network;

processing the scan log information into virus tracking information and storing it on a database server associated with the virus-tracking server; and

retrieving the virus tracking information and displaying a real-time trace on a tracking user device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes configuring display modes by the tracking user to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 13, which further includes displaying the display modes via a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus-tracking information on the pages.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the scan log contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the scan log includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a servlet program on the virus-tracking server to receive the scan log from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a polling program to regularly retrieve virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of Claim 18, which further includes providing a common gateway interface (CGI) program to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, which further includes running a Java applet on the browser of the tracking user device to display a real-time virus trace map.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of Claim 12, wherein the distributed computer network ~~of~~ includes the Internet, wherein said scan log from each scanned client computer is sent back over the Internet to be received by said virus tracking server, and wherein said real-time trace displayed on said tracking user device is made available over the Internet.